

Southern Association of Marine Educators Annual Meeting
Gulf Alliance EE Team Mid-Year Meeting
January 23-25, 2026

Day 1 – Friday, January 23th (Arrival & Social Day)

1:00 – 4:00 PM *(Invite only) Alliance EE Team Steering Committee Meeting – USM MEC*

5:00 – 8:00 PM **Location: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Biloxi-Ocean Springs**
7301 Washington Ave, Ocean Springs, MS 39564
Check in @ Holiday Inn Express – Charcuterie board and beverages
BYO Dinner and hang out with us at the hotel!

Day 2 – Saturday, January 24th (Meeting Day)

Virtual Meeting Link: [Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

7:00 - 8:00 AM **Location: Walter Anderson Museum of Art**
510 Washington Ave, Ocean Springs, MS 39564
Parking limited - please carpool if you can!
Coffee/Breakfast sponsored by SAME

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Gulf Alliance Mid-Year Meeting

- **8:00 – 8:30 AM** Gulf Star Program, Becky Ginn
- **8:30 – 9:15 AM** BIL and Gulf Star Project Updates
- **9:15 – 9:45 AM** Governor's Action Plan V Discussion
- **9:45 – 10:00 AM** Break
- **10:00 – 12:00 PM** Building State Capacity in Science Education (LA, MS, AL DOEs)

12:00 - 1:00 PM Box Lunch (provided by SAME)

1:00 – 4:30 PM SAME Annual Business Meeting

- **1:30 – 3:00 PM** Introductions, Share-a-Thon, Business Meeting, Awards
- **3:00 – 3:15 PM** Break
- **3:15 – 4:30 PM** Walter Anderson Museum/Art Activity

5:00 – 6:30 PM Dinner together Crave Food Hall

Day 3 – Sunday, January 25th (Field Trip Day)

9:00 – 11:00 AM **Option A: Birding with Dr. Mark Woodrey** (walking shoes recommended!)
Meet at The Traveler Cafe
1007 Joseph St., Ocean Springs, MS (behind the museum)

Option B: Mississippi Aquarium (limited to 10 people)
Meet at The Mississippi Aquarium
2100 E Beach Blvd, Gulfport, MS 39501

LODGING Info for Holiday Inn Express & Suites 7301 Washington Ave, Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Reservation cutoff date for group discount: **January 9, 2026**

Your room block is ready for your guests to begin calling to make their individual reservations at the Holiday Inn & Suites Ocean Springs. Below are the specifics to tell your guests regarding their room reservations:

CALL-IN RESERVATIONS:

228-872-7255

Mention the "SAME Conference 2026" in order to receive the specialized group rates and room types.

https://www.ihg.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=EX&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=ospms&checkInDate=23&checkInMonthYear=002026&checkOutDate=25&checkOutMonthYear=002026&_PMID=99801505&GPC=SAM&cn=no&adjustMonth=false&showApp=true&monthIndex=00

ONLINE RESERVATIONS:

***Guests can click the link above, select the date rate and the Group Code will already be entered into the reservation screen. Mobile apps may not provide all information when booking.

Please make sure that they make the reservations prior to the cut-off date in order for guests to get the discounted room rate, after this date the guest rooms that were on hold and not picked up will be released back to the hotel for resell.

Food Information

We will have some snacks on Friday and Saturday, as well as provide breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

Friday, January 23, 2026 Dinner on own, but we will have snacks and some beverages

Saturday, January 24, 2026 Breakfast provided: The Traveler Cafe
Lunch provided: Eat Drink Love
Dinner on own: Crave Food Hall in Ocean Springs. We will sit together but everyone can order whatever they'd like.

Sunday, January 25, 2026 Breakfast on own

More food details to come for registered attendees.